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U.S. Assails Sentencing Of Yank As Spy

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BERLIN (UPI)—The United States denounced Saturday as a "travesty of justice" the East German sentencing of an American jack-of-all-trades to 15 years as a spy.

An East Berlin court Friday convicted Peter Feinauer, 27-year-old West Berlin resident, formerly of Providence, R.I., of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and helping refugees flee to the West. He was arrested Oct. 7, 1966.

Tried In Secret

An American spokesman here said the sometime taxi driver, photographer and art student had been held almost a year without learning the charges against himself and had been tried in secret.

In a strong statement the spokesman said the United States took a very serious view of the arrest. He promised the government would do everything to obtain the early release of Feinauer as well as a Columbia University art instructor arrested in East Berlin 25 days ago.

Feinauer's German-born mother who lived here with him expressed disbelief her son was a spy and Western officials suspected a frameup. They said the case looked peculiar.

"He was held under investigative arrest longer than any other American ever seized, by the East Germans," a spokesman said. "Such a period of detention was unjustified and unconscionable."

'Travesty Of Justice'

"That travesty of justice now has been compounded by convicting him in camera (secret)."

The spokesman said not only had the U.S. mission here been unable to find out the charges against Feinauer but they did not know why another American was being held by the East Germans.

Ronald Wiedenhoeft, 30-year-old Columbia University art instructor from Milwaukee, was arrested Sept. 5 when he went to East Berlin to gather material for his doctoral dissertation on Berlin architecture in the 1920s and 1930s.

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